

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Document Title: Veterinary Clinic Design Flow Policy

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Purpose: The purpose of this guidance is to clarify Title 5 Code 310 CMR 15.203 (3) “Kennel/Veterinary Office” which establishes the system sewage design flow for this use at 50 gallons/day (GPD) per kennel.

Background: This guidance addresses the needed differentiation between a kennel, which provides boarding for animals, and a veterinary office/clinic which does not provide boarding services.

Approach: The Title 5 Code 310 CMR 15.203 (3) COMMERCIAL requires the use of 50 GPD per kennel for system sewage design flows for a “Kennel/Veterinary Office”. This design flow applies only to kennels and to veterinary offices that also provide boarding for animals. A veterinary office that does not provide boarding services, other than when necessitated by medical reasons, does not fit into the use category of “Kennel/Veterinary Office”.

Title 5 does not contain a design flow for a facility that is a veterinary office only. As specified in section 15.203 (6), when Title 5 does not specify a system design flow for a particular use, then the design flow shall be, with the approval of the DEP, in relation to actual meter readings of established flows from known or similar installations, in this case veterinary offices. In these instances, design flows shall be based on 200% of average water meter readings in order to properly size the system for maximum daily flows. To pursue this option no variance is required, however the DEP must in fact have data from comparable facilities. If adequate flow data from comparable facilities are not available and on file with DEP, then the project proponent must provide it. Also, after start-up of the facility the permittee will be required to submit to the DEP quarterly water meter readings for one year. This requirement will no longer be imposed once DEP has adequate information to establish a representative flow for veterinary offices.

Note: As the specific circumstances regarding any project would better define what options are available, DEP Regional staff are available to meet with the project proponent and the town where questions arise.